

5-1 2657-L 133

G-2 Report.

RESTRICTED

3,850-4

ARGENTINA - Political.

Subject: Status of Relations with Foreign Countries;
Argentine Attitude in European War.

RECEIVED 6/2 W. D. SEP 20 1939

The Argentine Government took swift steps to define its position in the war between the Democracies and Germany when on September 4th, the day following the notification to the Foreign Office by England and France of their declarations of war against Germany, a declaration of neutrality in the present conflict was published.

No less rapid than this declaration of neutrality was the action of the government to halt speculation in foodstuffs of prime necessity. On September 7 after profiteers for three days on the basis of a European war had begun boosting the prices the Congress passed and the President signed a law setting the maximum prices to be charged for foodstuffs those which prevailed during the first two weeks of August. A regulatory commission was provided in the measure and it commenced functioning one week after war was declared.

Fearful of a fuel shortage, both coal and oil, due to inability to secure these articles from abroad, railways in the second week of September began to cut their schedules. The Central Argentine eliminated entirely its two crack trains to Córdoba and Tucumán, and several others on various parts of the system had their schedules cut.

Argentina in the present European conflict shows none of the division of sentiment which was apparent in the World War. The people and press are, apparently, solidly behind the Democracies and against Germany. This is evidenced daily. One leading afternoon daily carries a "streamer" across the bottom of its pages saying: "We wish the triumph of civilization and the crushing of the dictators".

In the movie houses any picture of Hitler or of his satellites is met with catcalls and boos from all parts of the house, while those showing President Roosevelt, King George or French personages are loudly applauded. What claims to be the largest drug store in the world, located here in Buenos Aires, and which boasts that among its employees all languages are spoken, two days after war was declared obliterated the "Man Spricht Deutsch" legend on its windows while passers-by audibly approved.

There is a strong anti-Nazi sentiment among the better class German residents of Argentina - the leading German-language newspaper openly states it is anti-Nazi - and there exists here a society called "Das Andere Deutschland" (the other Germany) which sent a letter to the British Embassy stating in part: "The friends and supporters of 'Das Andere Deutschland' have fought against Hitler before he established his dictatorship, and have never ceased to combat the false theories of National Socialism and its political practice at home and abroad. We have always publicly denounced Hitler as the enemy of the German people and a menace to the peace of the world. We have said so in our own name and in the name of our brothers in Germany who are not allowed to lift their voice.

"In this moment we wish to express our sympathy with all the nations whom Hitler has forced into a terrible war, and our hope that a speedy overthrow of the Nazi regime may free the German people and establish lasting peace in Europe."

From M/A Argentina.

Report No. 6110.

September 12, 1939.

3,850-e.

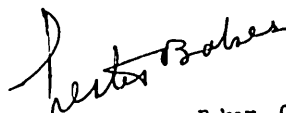
G-2 Report.

Nazi agents here called up newspapers the first week of the war and stated that Argentina had protested to England against the blockade of the mouth of the River Plate as British cruisers have captured and sunk several German freighters in the vicinity. The newspapers sent reporters to the Foreign Office to verify the statement before publication, and found the information wholly false. The Foreign Office said that any blockade by Britain is maintained outside the jurisdiction of Argentina on the high seas and there is no thought of making any protest.

Local Nazi propagandists have within the past few days sent letters to directors of all the schools in the city of Buenos Aires enclosing a Spanish translation of a speech recently delivered by Molotov, and stating: "Molotov, Russian Commissar for Foreign Relations, unmasks in a sensational speech before the Chamber the war intrigues of Great Britain."

In reference to the meeting to be held in Panama by representatives of the American Republics at the end of September 1939 the local press has stated that the coming consultative deliberations are not the initiation of a league of neutrals, but constitute a brotherly meeting of countries which uphold the same international principles and aspire to fulfill a legal neutrality and to diminish or soften as much as possible the effects upon them of the European war. A conduct of absolute equal neutrality in all the countries is the most firm and efficient base for maintaining and defending the rights and the peace of the neutral countries of America, is the press opinion.

Source: Press;
Personal contacts.



Lester Baker, Col. Inf.,
Military Attaché.

Original & four copies airmailed Sept. 12th.
Confirmation by steamer Sept. 15th.

6-1-2657-L-133
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G-2 Report.

3,850-a.

ARGENTINA - Political.

Subject: Status of Relations with Foreign Countries;
Argentine Reaction to Neutral Safety Zone.

RECEIVED G.2 W.D. JAN 4 1940

The practical applicability of the Panama resolution for the establishment of a 300-mile safety zone around the American coast was bound, sooner or later, to be put to the test. It has been tested, if anything sooner, and certainly more decisively than was perhaps expected. The Americas, and especially Argentina and Uruguay and Brazil, apparently regard the naval engagement of Punta del Este as a direct infringement of what was established at Panama as Pan-American rights in this respect, inasmuch as, fought outside the 3-mile limit, the whole engagement took place within the 300-mile "safety zone". At the time of the Panama Conference, the Argentine Government commented on the impracticability of the safety zone resolution. In well-informed Argentine circles it is believed that in theory and in principle it no doubt has much to commend it; in practice it is bound to fail so long as it is a purely regional agreement, and, as such, a unilateral modification of a tenet of international law, passed without either the approval of, or prior consultation with the other Powers whose rights are clearly affected by it.

"Nevertheless, its effective application in practice, subject to its legal adoption internationally - had such been agreed upon before the outbreak of hostilities - need not have been regarded as entirely inimical to British or Allied interests in war time. The attempt, unilaterally, to apply it after the outbreak of war, and without adequate steps having been taken to ensure its efficiency, was bound to put the American countries in an awkward position. They must now, for considerations of prestige - as well as others - make some form of protest to the belligerent countries, naturally not excluding Great Britain. Furthermore, they are committed to taking steps now to ensure the respect, in future, of their self-established neutrality in the matter of the thus far mythical safety zone. If such steps could take the form of an efficient Pan-American patrol of the proposed safety zone, thus ensuring protection to all merchant shipping to the extent of the 300-mile limit, and the prevention of all acts of belligerency on both sides within that limit, then it would seem that the Panama resolution would deserve the acquiescence of, and strict observance by the belligerent Powers. But failing its effective establishment and protection as a safety zone, we cannot see that the Allies can be expected to regard it as such and conform to the regulations governing its creation."

Under the heading of: "A Disturbing Rumor", the local magazine "Review of the River Plate" says: "The mere passing of the Panama resolution was not of itself enough. The passing of that resolution did not prevent the 'Graf Spee' from attempting to apprehend the Firmose well within the safety zone last week, nor the sinking of the Clement off the Brazilian coast some weeks earlier. Nor would it have prevented similar further armed action by the Graf Spee against other merchant shipping in South American waters if the British squadron had not intervened and put an effective end to the German battleship's career. There are circulating at the moment of writing, faintly disturbing rumors that, failing observance by belligerent vessels in the future, of the Panama conception of territorial integrity, reprisals will be taken against such vessels in the form of a prohibition to refuel or re-provision from American ports. Such a course, were it adopted, and effectively

From M/A Argentina.

Report No. 6160.

December 26, 1939.

G-2 Report.

3,850-a.

applied, would necessarily have a decided detrimental effect on the efficacy of the British South American patrol, which relies to a large extent on the refueling and reprovisioning facilities of the River Plate and other South American ports, which it enjoys under international law and also in virtue of the traditional hospitality which has always been extended to British warships on these shores.

"It is inconceivable that recourse should be had to such extreme measures, and it is a matter of particular concern that their rumored adoption should have originated in Buenos Aires. Argentina's trade fortunes, the foundation of her national economy, are still her interchange with Europe and especially with the Allied countries. That trade is today being maintained largely by the British merchant service, operating under particularly difficult conditions, and under the supervision of the British Admiralty and the protection of the Navy. Any action of the kind proposed, tending as it must, to impair the efficiency of that system, could not but redound, not necessarily to Argentina's discredit, but certainly and decidedly to the detriment of her vital trade interests."

Source: Local press and
as stated.

Lester Baker

Lester Baker, Col. Inf.,
Military Attaché.

Original & 5 copies airmailed Dec. 26th.

G-2 Digest.

4 Enc
6-1 2657-1133
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- ARMENT
3,020-g.

ARGENTINA - Political.

Subject: Stability of Government;
Nazi & Fascist Activities in Argentina.

RECEIVED G/2 W. D. MAY 27 1940

In a conversation this date with Mr. Richard Berger, a former legal and financial adviser to the Greek and Belgian governments, and the author of various papers on French finance which were published in book form in 1939, I was informed that the Argentine army, navy, the higher circles of society and the wealthy class were definitely pro-Nazi and pro-Fascist and that they openly expressed hopes for the defeat of the Allies, particularly Great Britain, in the present war.

That this situation also exists in Brazil in some sections, regardless of ideas that officialdom in the United States may hold on this subject.

On previous occasions I have met Mr. Berger in the company of responsible members of the Diplomatic Corps and of influential Argentine citizens, and have learned that Mrs. Berger has large financial interests in Brazil and Argentina so it would appear that he has the opportunity of making influential contacts. Personal contacts in other circles lead me to believe that Mr. Berger's estimate is based on fact.

Within the past week I was told by Dr. Luis Mario Zuberbuhler, a nephew of the former Foreign Minister Dr. Saavedra Lamas, and a delegate to the Panama Conference and former member of the Foreign Office staff, in his opinion that while the army was pro-German he did not believe that the navy held like sentiments.

He expressed the opinion that the personnel of the Graf Spee would be absorbed by the Argentines and that few would ever return to Germany. He was not in favor of having this absorption take place in the city or province of Buenos Aires, and particularly mentioned one of the northern provinces as a likely spot. At present these sailors are in four large groups in the interior and are of potential danger.

Mr. Zuberbuhler expressed the conviction that Argentina had been able to assimilate all "races" except the Jews and the English, and that the former now presented a national problem. He made a particular point that the Italians in Argentina were of a higher caste than those who had emigrated to the United States, and that therefore they blended in the national life of Argentina.

I made the opportunity to contact a well-advised Argentine who informed me that while the army and perhaps the navy were pro-Nazi they were probably more pro-Fascist, but that the general public were definitely anti-Nazi but pro-Fascist.

I have heard but have been unable to confirm that the cadets at the Argentine Naval Institute show intense pleasure when reports are received of the destruction of British naval vessels. However, certain members of the navy have expressed to me pro-British and pro-American sentiments.

From M/A Argentine.

Report No. 6229.

May 16, 1940.

CONTINUED - THE MILITARY ATTACHE

ARGENTINA

G-2 Digest.

3,020-g.

A prominent Argentine attorney and manager of properties in Buenos Aires informed me that the Argentines had tired of British domination and that in the past Great Britain had "spanked" Argentina when this action suited them but now the Argentines were in a position to return the compliment.

An Argentine who edits a trade journal informed me that Argentina was definitely pro-Fascist but that he did not believe the country in general was pro-Nazi. That the armed forces were probably pro-Nazi due to the many years they had been receiving instruction from German personnel but that after class hours the Argentine officers had no social contacts whatsoever with their German instructors.

That the Germans had been retained as instructors in subjects in which they were particularly qualified such as topography and tactics and that all were on individual and not government contracts. That they were allowed to remain in Argentina because all had expressed a desire not to return to Germany at this time.

I am informed by numerous and reliable sources that the recently established daily "El Pampero" (which came into existence shortly after the beginning of the present war in Europe) is the organ of the German Embassy in Buenos Aires. The Embassy bought a large amount of news-print for the journal, is reported to pay the salaries of its staff, and all the foreign news printed therein - cable dispatches - are marked "T.O." as source. This "T.O." stands for "Trans-Ocean" which is the official name of the Nazi government's news service to foreign countries. The editorial staff of the paper is made up of pro-Nazi Argentines and that all employees of Nazi firms in Buenos Aires are required to buy and read the Pampero and be seen with it in their possession. That the editions of this paper are furnished without charge to the news stands so for that reason the vendors try to force this paper on the public. The police have been ordered to keep a close surveillance over this paper and its personnel but as yet it has not been suppressed. I am told that the Pampero is published by a firm which publishes other papers whose owners have considerable influence with the present government.

From British sources I have been given to understand that this periodical may suspend publication within the next month. Copies of El Pampero and of Critica of the same date accompany this report as an exhibit of how the Pampero plays up the German angle, giving Nazi victories which are in direct opposition to Critica's news furnished by such news agencies as the Associated and United Press. (Exhibit A).

Two copies of the ill-sutrated tabloid "Ahora" (Exhibit B) a conservative newspaper are attached to show the amount of popular interest in the German and Italian armies. The issue of May 7 pictures a German plane flying over London and the Fascist demonstration in La Plata, the capital of the Province of Buenos Aires which is within one hour of the Federal Capital. The Argentines are similar to Austria in that the group which controls Buenos Aires controls the nation.

While it may be stated that the people of Argentina are definitely not pro-Nazi at this time, they are nevertheless deeply impressed by the apparent success of the German armies and this coupled with the amount of German propaganda daily forced down their throats and the encouragement they may receive from the armed forces of the country together with that of the social, monied and younger circles make them appear a fertile ground for experiment.

From M/A Argentina.

Report No. 6229.

May 16, 1940.

G-2 Digest.

3,020-g.

It is also a fact that the free press has been in entire sympathy with Norway, Denmark, Holland, Belgium and Luxemburg and has harshly criticised the invasion of these countries by Germany. President Ortiz sent messages of sympathy to the rulers of Holland and Belgium at the time of the Nazi invasion.

Mr. Louis Lacey, an Anglo-Argentine, told me that the Germans were collecting an estimated \$1,200,000 Argentine pesos per month from residents of this country, and that Danish citizens were now being blackmailed into contributing to the fund under threats of reprisals against relatives in the homeland. The funds collected are received by the German Embassy and disbursed under its direction.

The above statement has been confirmed by French and Argentine circles although the estimates vary from 1,000,000 to 2,000,000 pesos. The French estimate a daily collection of 4,000 pesos for propaganda purposes alone.

Captain Marcos Zar, chief of the Argentine Naval Air Service, told me that Argentina, unlike the United States, had been unable to assimilate the racial groups from Europe, and that Germans, Italians, English etc. were as much German, Italian and English even to the third generation as they would have been had they remained in Europe. Captain Zar is married to an American and I believe is definitely pro-American as is Commander Masa, his assistant.

COMMENT.

It is my considered opinion that the important members of the Government are not pro-Nazi or pro-Fascist, and, if anything, have definite sympathy for the Allied cause. I do not believe that this sentiment is motivated so much by ideals as by a fear of what will happen to the Argentines in the event of a German victory. In other words, they would like to see England's influence in the Argentine definitely weakened but don't want a Germany strong enough to dominate their nation or its policies.

I believe that the Government, general public, army and navy are deeply concerned with events in Europe and this fear was crystallized into the so-called Cantilo proposal of non-belligerency. They wanted the support of the American Governments, particularly that of the United States, in the event that Germany or Italy put moral or physical pressure on their government and nation.

Army and navy officers, civilians and members of the Government will state that in case of trouble their only hope of help lies with the United States. This statement is in apparent contradiction of events related in the body of this report; however since the invasion of the Low Countries there has been an inclination toward the United States. Argentina has no real friendship for Chile, Brazil, Uruguay or Mexico, and, according to the Military Attachés of those countries, the feeling is reciprocated. The Latin-American Attachés ridicule Argentina for attempting to compare herself with the United States.

By guarded conversations in which I have let Argentines take the initiative, I feel that they will follow the lead of the United States in almost any matter provided "national face" is preserved, that it can be done under the heading of hemispherical solidarity, and particularly if it appears that Argentina has been the leader, or one of the leaders. The Argentines are not sure of themselves as a nation and cover it by an air of superiority and aloofness.

I believe that the Air Services of both the Army and Navy are pro-American, at least the higher officials, and that this is due to their

G-2 Digest.

3,020-g.

association with Americans and instruction under Americans which proves the value of our Missions and schools.

Source: As stated.

M. A. Devine, Jr.
M. A. Devine, Jr.,
Major, G. S.,
Military Attaché.

Original & 5 copies airmailed May 17th.

Copy to the Ambassador.

Enclosed: 2 copies of Ahora;

1 copy each El Pampero & Critica.

G-2 Report.

6-1 2657-L133
4
3,850.

ARGENTINA - Political.

Subject: Foreign Relations;
Non-belligerency Attitude.

RECEIVED G/2 W. D. MAY 27 1940

In a conversation with Dr. José C. Castells, sub-Secretary of the Interior, this Argentine official told the Military Attaché that no member of the Argentine Government, including Foreign Minister Cantilo himself, had any idea what Dr. Cantilo meant by his recent proposal of non-belligerency rather than continued neutrality of the Americas in the present European war, nor just what distinction there was between the two terms.

Regarding the breakdown of the trade agreement negotiations, in Buenos Aires a few months ago, for such an agreement between Argentina and the United States this official said the Argentine Government had been stupid in its attitude on the agreement and that the failure to conclude the agreement was almost wholly the fault of the Argentine negotiators. He said he felt sure that if and when the subject came up again Argentina would agree in order to get something signed.

Señor Castells stated to the Military Attaché that President Ortiz told him that the agreement would have gone through had it not been for his poor advisers whom he termed the "damn brain trust". Señor Castells added that Argentina should sign a trade agreement with the United States in order to get something started, and then work for amendments if the conditions proved disadvantageous, and that he has supported this idea.

Source: As stated.

M. A. Devine, Jr.
M. A. Devine, Jr.,
Major, G. S.,
Military Attaché.

Original & 5 copies airmailed May 17th.

G-2 Report.

CONFIDENTIAL

3,020-f

ARGENTINA - Political.

Subject: Stability of Government;
Nazi Activities in Argentina.

RECEIVED 9/2 W. L. JUN 4 1940

German nationals in South America have been ordered by the Berlin Government to buy up large estancias(ranches) with frontage on the South Atlantic both in Argentina and Brazil, and they are now carrying out these orders the Military Attaché has been informed from a reliable source. It is the opinion of the M/A and of the sources of his information that these tracts of land are to be prepared for landing operations. The source of this information was President Rosy of the Spanish Bank in Buenos Aires, his wife, and Mr. Berger(Swiss) who was mentioned in G-2 Rep't. No. 6229, I.G. 3020-g, May 16th.

That the Argentine Government is honeycombed with Nazi sympathizers, either outright Germans or Argentine pro-Nazis who are in the pay of the Berlin Government has been brought to the attention of the Military Attaché from various sources. The latest of these is a violent anti-Nazi Swedish osteopath who studied medicine in Stockholm, spent several years in Germany where he became a gliding pilot and a member of the Nazi party, studied osteopathy in the United States and has been a resident of Argentina for the past eleven years. This informant stated that since the Nazi invasion of Norway the local Swedish colony, with the possibility of one or two black sheep, has become wholly anti-Nazi. The Swedish Club here in Buenos Aires has a membership of 130.

Another fact which seems to have a Nazi angle is that Mr. Horthy, son of the Regent of Hungary and Minister to Brazil, has been in Buenos Aires for the past week(he returns to Rio de Janeiro today) but for what purpose the Military Attaché has been unable to learn. However a Mr. Duklai, a Hungarian who is married to a Hungarian Baroness, told the M/A that he had had three conversations with Minister Horthy and that the latter told him that although his father wished to keep Hungary out of the present war he would join Germany in an attack on Rumania rather than try to be neutral and have Hungary invaded by Germany.

This Mr. Duklai was very much interested in whether the United States would enter the European war on the side of the Allies, following the recent statements by President Roosevelt. He gave as his reason for this interest the fact that all his money is now in the United States and he did not wish it confiscated. He furthermore gave as his opinion that it is now too late for the United States to begin defence preparations because the army is insignificant in numbers and lacks modern equipment, while plane production is only about 1,000 units per month.

Mr. Duklai stated that Hitler would declare war on the United States as soon as he has taken care of the British and French armies, as reprisal for supplying planes and munitions to the Allies. Anyway, Duklai said, Hitler will declare war on the United States within six months from signing peace with Britain and France. Hitler, he said, would not give the United States time in which to make any adequate preparations. Duklai stated that Hungary is a friend of both Italy and Jugoslavia but that these are unfriendly to Hungary.

From M/A Argentina.

Report No. 6233.

May 21, 1940.

- 1 -

CONFIDENTIAL

G-2 Report.

CONFIDENTIAL

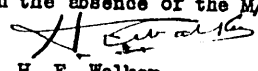
3,020-r.

There has been much anti-British sentiment expressed recently in Buenos Aires, and the Uruguayan Military Attaché here states that this anti-British feeling has been built up by German interests through clever propaganda daily handed out to Argentines in small doses which has taken effect. This source also states that the Argentines hate the French but the Military Attaché has found no evidence of this, in fact the Argentines seem to ignore the French rather than hate them.

Source: As stated.

The facts for this report were gathered by the M/A before leaving to make his official calls in Uruguay, and he instructed the clerk in charge to write up the report.

In the absence of the M/A.


H. E. Walker,
Clerk in charge.

Original & 5 copies airmailed May 21st.

6-1 2657-L-133
JUN 5 1940

G-2 Report

3,020-f.

ARGENTINA - Political.

Subject: Stability of Government;
Nazi Activities in Argentina.

RECEIVED 6/2 W.B. JUN 4 1940

The people of Argentina are becoming more and more "Nazi conscious" with the invasion of Holland and Belgium by the Germans.

The Government, through President Ortiz, sent messages of condolence to the Queen of Holland and King of the Belgians; the Bourse of Buenos Aires sent such messages to the Stock Exchanges of the Belgian and Holland capitals; the intellectual women of Buenos Aires have expressed their sympathy to their sisters in the invaded countries; and scores of young Argentines have asked to be allowed to enlist at the Belgian consulate to fight against Germany.

Critica, leading afternoon daily, in its edition of yesterday - May 20th - ran a streamer the full width of page 7 saying: "The entire country demands the rooting up of the fifth column". This newspaper has for months been attacking the Nazi menace in Argentina and yesterday devoted nearly a full page in reviewing the situation since its first expose in November 1937.

It made much of the speech of Dr. Alvear, ex-president and head of the Union Radical Party, at Cordoba a few days ago when he said: "One of the Dictators said the other day 'A thousand years of German history is at stake' whereat the world should reply, 'A thousand years of civilization is at stake'. We have a duty to perform inside our own territory. We have neither the political or the economic power necessary to enter the battlefields. But we have an American ideal, an ideal which characterizes this continent and which we must guard, senores, because there is a fifth column in Argentina. A fifth column which at the moment does not conspire against our sovereignty or our liberty but which conspires against something more important; our conscience liberal, republican and democratic. We must close our ranks. Each one of us must be a propagandist of these ideals without which Argentina could not live, or if it did, life would not be worth the living".

Critica speaks of the danger to the petroleum regions by Nazis citing the possibility of Germans in Patagonia uniting with Germans in Southern Chile. Referring to the Germans in Chile, Critica states: "These Germans could pass easily to Patagonia. They would form an army of 60,000 in conditions to march against our petroleum riches."

The newspaper goes on the mention Nazi activities which it unearthed in Misiones territory and in La Pampa in 1938, then calls to attention the discovery of a Nazi radio transmission station a few days ago not distant from the Federal Capital. In a dispatch from the city of Rosario to Critica it is stated that Nazi agents in the north of Argentina have referred to the inhabitants in reports to Berlin as "monkeys" and "negros".

Source: As stated.

In the absence of the Military Attache.

H. E. Walker,
Clerk in Charge.

Original & 5 copies airmailed May 21st.

From M/A Argentina.

Report No. 6235.

May 21, 1940.

G-2 Report.

6-1 2657-4133
JUN 8 1940
WAR DEPT. PRESENT
8,628-1

ARGENTINA - Political.

Subject: Nazi Activities in Argentina;
Cash asked from Norwegian, Danish, Dutch
& Belgian Residents here by Nazis.

RECEIVED G/2 W. D. JUN 4 1940

Local residents of Norwegian, Danish, Dutch and Belgian blood here have been threatened with reprisals upon relatives in the recently over-run home countries unless they contribute generously to the Nazi funds in the local German Embassy. These facts have been brought out by a Buenos Aires newspaper (The Standard) which published the results of its investigation this (May 22nd) morning.

The Gestapo is already at work in the invaded countries, and in cases where the inhabitants have relatives resident in Argentina the latter have received letters, the portent of which is but too well known to those who have witnessed or read of the atrocities perpetrated in Czechoslovakia and Poland.

These letters received by local nationals of the countries cited above definitely state that "a generous cash contribution is expected for the German Embassy if there are not to be reprisals". In many of the letters investigated by the newspaper it is added that the extent of their income is known, and that the contribution must be proportionately large.

In view of the recent outcry over activities of local Nazi propaganda, it is interesting to note that the "fifth column" activity which is conducted on a large scale is directed by prominent Nazi chiefs who apparently act independently although they are reported to be supplied by the German Embassy here with practically unlimited funds for their work. These funds are in most cases compulsorily supplied by local German firms and their employees, who are all under the Nazi thumb. As far as the employees are concerned - and this includes Argentines as well as Germans - they must be members of the Labor Front to hold their jobs in Nazi firms, and contributions are regularly deducted from their salaries.

The newspaper cited states that one informant told its representative that one of the main Fifth Column leaders in Argentina had his headquarters in one of the largest hotels and employed a regular corps of spies who, in addition to collecting valuable information, also spread alarmist rumors and Nazi propaganda. The activities of this Nazi chief had attained such proportions in the hotel itself, it was stated, that the management was recently forced to interfere as even waiters and chambermaids were being suborned to report on whatever they heard in the hotel, in rooms, at dinners, luncheons and cocktail parties.

Source: As stated.

M. A. Devine, Jr.
M. A. Devine, Jr.,
Major, G. S.,
Military Attaché.

Original & 5 copies airmailed May 24th.

3-1 2657-L-133
9
EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
OFFICE OF THE MILITARY ATTACHE
BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA

RECEIVED G/2 W. D. JUN 6 1940

Tuesday May 28, 1940.
4:30 P.M.

AIRMAIL.

Memorandum: To A. C. of S., G-2, War Department, Washington, D.C.

1. The situation is unchanged.
2. The Government has taken no positive action against agitators, although they must be well known.
3. Today it was again reported that General Molina, President of the National Youth Movement, was arrested. This was denied by the War Department.
4. Press reporters state that the Rightest elements of the army(Nazi and Fascist) demand that the President resign and give way to a stronger man. This was disclaimed at the War Department to members of the press.
5. An Army spokesman states to the press that the Army has complete plans to deal with the Fifth Column and that they would act with vigor if necessary.
6. The French Military Attaché is certain(this A.M.) that the Minister of War is with the President but states that all is lost if Italy declares war. This due to the influence of the large Italian colony in the Federal Capital.
7. I have confirmed that the troops are sleeping on their arms in barracks.
8. Marines have been moved to quarters in the Naval College in Buenos Aires.

COMMENTS.

It still appears that the Government is not sure of itself. It may be that the President does not want to offend Germany by taking action against Nazi agitators because he fears that in the event of a German victory Argentina will be at the mercy of Germany.

That the Army has put pressure on him or that he is not sure of their support.

Action might involve many men in Government circles.

Representations by the German government against his proposal for non-belligerency, or opposition from within Congress might be reasons.

M. A. Devina, Jr.
M. A. Devina, Jr.,
Major, G. S.,
Military Attaché.

13.1

G-2 Report.

6-1 2657-6-133

12

3,850-g.

RESTRICTED.

ARGENTINA - Political. RECEIVED 6/2 W. D. JUN 20 1940

Subject: Foreign Relations: Neutrality;
Argentina Acts Against 5th Column.

The Argentine Government has for some time been fully aware of Nazi activities in its territory but no executive decree action was taken, due, probably, to the fact that Congress would go into session during May. Soon after the session opened, a restrictive bill was written by the Government and introduced by the Minister of Interior as a rush piece of legislation. After a few days debate, and an all night session on June 7th the Government bill, as amended, was passed by the Chamber of Deputies at 6:45 on the morning of June 8th. It now goes to the Senate where quick action and no amendments are expected.

In the original measure the most drastic provision was that dealing with newspapers and other means of spreading the printed word. This section of the bill raised protests from the entire press for it gave the Government the power to close up any newspaper whenever in its judgment the contents violated the neutral position of Argentina, and also required all foreign correspondents to submit their dispatches to censorship before filing them. This section was evidently aimed at publications known to be subsidized by the German Embassy in Buenos Aires, the most important of which is El Pampero which was started a few weeks after the outbreak of the present war by journalists known to be in Nazi pay. This newspaper is distributed to news vendors free and so they try to push its sales, according to the best information available.

The main changes effected by the Lower House of the Argentine Congress in the Government bill to protect its neutrality were that the freedom of the press was not left at the mercy of the Government. Penalties for abusing it will be applied by the courts.

The section authorizing the Government to declare a state of emergency was deleted. However, the authorities will be entitled to mobilize civilian personnel for the operation of essential public services.

The duration of the law as passed by the Chamber was fixed at one year. No limit to its life was established in the Government's text.

The full text of the bill as passed by the Deputies reads:

NATURALIZATION PAPERS

Art. 1. The granting of naturalization papers to citizens of countries at war, during the duration of the latter, is hereby suspended, to that end, as an indispensable requisite the judges will ask the Government for the necessary information.

Art. 2. Naturalization papers will be cancelled if the beneficiary perpetrates any of the offences listed in the law, without prejudice to the penalties imposed therein. The cancellations will be ordered by the Federal judges of their respective jurisdictions at the request of the public prosecutors or on an accusation by a private citizen. Trial will be verbal, with

From ./A Argentina.

Report No. 6248.

June 10, 1940.

G-2 Report.

3,850-g.

a hearing to receive evidence and hear the deposition of the accused, with the intervention of the public prosecutor. Sentence must be imposed within 30 days of the commencement of the legal proceedings, and an appeal may be lodged, within the ensuing 48 hours, before the Federal Court of appeal, which will give its verdict within the next ten days, and against which no further appeal will be allowed. No appeal will be allowed against any other portion of the proceedings. The judges will weigh the evidence according to their free convictions. In case of an infringement of Article V, a criminal conviction must precede the cancellation of naturalization papers.

II TENDENCIOUS PROPAGANDA

Art. 3. All articles or comments published in connection with conflicts between nations, referring to Argentine neutrality in face of the former, must be signed by a perfectly identifiable author and, in the case of organs published in a foreign language, must be accompanied by a Spanish translation. The news transmitted by news agencies must bear the signature of their chiefs and the responsible authority of the newspaper or other publication.

Art. 4. Under the dependency of the Ministry of the Interior a registry is hereby created of foreign and national news agencies, in which the latter and their personnel must be registered; also the correspondents of foreign organs, whether resident in the country or on a temporary visit. All agencies and correspondents must supply to the register an authentic copy of all news they remit abroad, whether by cable or by post. These requisites will be indispensable for the operation of news agencies and their correspondents; also foreign correspondents.

Art. 5. Whoever publishes or otherwise propagates injurious statements endangering the country's neutrality in the face of other nations at war; or the country's institutions; or friendly relations with foreign nations, will be liable to the penalty established in Art. 219 of the Penal Code. Article 221 of the same Code will be applied to whosoever publishes or otherwise propagates offensive opinions regarding the heads of foreign States and their representatives in this country.

III FOREIGN ASSOCIATIONS

Art. 6. The Government is hereby authorized to dissolve and prohibit the functioning of societies, associations, entities or mere meetings intended to propagate ideas contrary to the regime established by the Constitution, or which in any way affect the country's position as a neutral towards nations at war. All associations, whether formed by foreigners or not, must have originated exclusively in Argentine territory, and their authorities and rules must be also of Argentine origin. No association may depend from foreign governments or entities, nor receive from abroad subsidies or donations of any kind, except in the case of charity institutions, which may accept them after advising the Government and obtaining the necessary permit. Infringements of this rule will be followed by the immediate dissolution of the entities concerned.

IV OFFENCES AND PENALTIES

Art. 7. A newspaper or publication which violates the provisions of Art. 3 may be closed and its appearance suspended for the space of one to ten days.

Art. 8. When events occur which, in the opinion of the Government, may affect the normal functioning of public services, aerial, river,

From M/A Argentina.

Report No. 6248.

June 10, 1940.

G-2 Report.

3,850-g.

land, cable, or wireless communications, provisions, supply of electric current, water, fuel, or transports, it may adopt the measures required for their resumption, including the civilian mobilization of the necessary personnel, Argentine or foreign, male or female. Those who disobey or place obstacles in the way of civilian mobilization will be liable to arrest or the space of one to six months.

Art. 9. The provisions of this law will remain in force until June 30, 1941.

COMMENT.

By this legislation, Argentina appears to have all the necessary authority to deal with subversive acts by either its own nationals or foreigners resident in the country. It is quite probable that the attitude of Germany to the Argentine protest over the torpedoing of the Argentine steamer Uruguay off the Spanish coast less than two weeks ago had considerable to do with the quick action of the Chamber of Deputies on this piece of protective legislation - this attitude of disdain hurt the national dignity of Argentina and its citizens who are very touchy on this point.

The man-in-the-street in Argentina is overwhelmingly pro-Ally except for such as through fear of reprisals on relatives in Europe are tied to Nazi and Fascist ideologies, and the Spanish-language newspapers - La Prensa and La Nacion comparable with the best in New York - have maintained absolute neutrality by failing to make editorial comment on the European war situation. The English-language press carries considerable pro-Ally comment as is natural, but in the German and Italian press there are pro and anti-Nazi publications and pro and anti-Fascist ones.

Source: As stated;
Personal contacts.

M. A. Devine, Jr.
M. A. Devine, Jr.,
Major, G. S.,
Military Attaché.

Original & 5 copies airmailed June 11th.

6-1
2657-L-133
13
3,850-a.
G-2 Report.

ARGENTINA - Political.

Subject: Status of Relations with Foreign Countries;
Argentine Leaders Sense Nazi Peril.

RECEIVED G/2 W. H. JUN 24 1940

The Argentine people are awake and sense the danger which now threatens the country, its future liberty and national independence through totalitarian actions in Europe. The invasion of Holland and Belgium, even before the drive on France, by the Germans caused leaders here, outside whatever action the Government itself might take, to effect an organization to unite all Argentines to combat totalitarian propaganda which seeks to sow discord among the people of this country.

Recently there was formed a body named "Comité de Acción Argentina" (Argentine Committee of Action). This is an organization of no party affiliations, is non-doctrinary, and represents through the members of its executive committee all shades of Argentine political thought and public aims, united for the preservation of "those essential principles which constitute the very foundation of our national being".

The names on its executive committee read like a roster of the first families of the country. They include Señora Victoria de Ocampo among the women, and Former President Alvear, Antonio Santamarina, Nicolás Repetto, Julio A. Noble, Octavio Roura, Mariano Villar Sáenz Peña, Juan C. Palacios, Jorge Bullrich among the men.

The message contained in its manifesto reads, in part: "From certain of the countries now at war we may be separated by questions of right and national interest. In respect of those we must firmly maintain our position. But none of these questions affects, even indirectly, our national existence. They are now of secondary importance, and must be left for final settlement to a more propitious future occasion. Today, for the first time in the history of our independence, we are faced with a danger threatening our free institutions from without. In such circumstances it would be unpatriotic and suicidal not to sink our individual differences and opinions and close our ranks in the single interest of our country.

"Of the two forces in conflict in Europe only one is the implacable enemy of the rights and freedom of other countries; only one aspires to world domination through force; only one discards and despises those standards of civilization by which the moral progress of mankind has been achieved; only one is aiming at the destruction of that Western civilization under whose protection we came into being, and have evolved as a nation.

"The totalitarian system is only the means adopted by one State whereby it hopes to extend its political and economic dominion at the expense of other nations and races.

"We do not advocate that this country shall align itself with any belligerent state. We wish to re-affirm our faith in the principles of respect, justice and honor which must underlie all international relations, and to oppose, through the creation of a united front of Argentine thought, the brutal onslaught of those who systematically violate these

From M/A Argentina.

Report No. 6256.

June 13, 1940.

G-2 Report.

3,850-a.

principles, and even abuse our hospitality in order to divide us against ourselves, undermining the foundations of our national unity, and conspiring to that end with the help and complicity of men who, unconsciously or corruptly, thus constitute themselves traitors to their own country".

COMMENT.

The formation of this group made up of persons of such diverse political faiths in national affairs would seem to indicate that outside the inner Government circles there are strong opinions held as to those Argentines who associate themselves openly or secretly with Nazi or Fascist elements of foreign origin. The last paragraph of the manifesto, quoted above, is especially significant as to the temper of the people in regard to traitors.

Source: Press.

M. A. Devine, Jr.
M. A. Devine, Jr.,
Major, G. S.,
Military Attaché.

Original & 5 copies airmailed June 14th.

G-2 Report.

AIR MAIL

RECEIVED

ARGENTINA - Political.

Subject: Status of Relations with Foreign Countries;
"Acción Argentina" Spreads its Work.

6-1 2657-L-133
3,850-a. 14
RECEIVED JUL 5 1940

The formation of "Comité de Acción Argentina" (Argentine Committee of Action) to combat the 5th Column peril in this country was reported June 13, 1940, Report No. 6256, I.G. 3,850-a, and since that date this organization has constantly added to its membership among the Argentine leaders of all shades of political opinion, and is spreading its work to the principal cities and towns outside the Federal Capital.

Branches (filiales parroquiales) are being established through parochial churches and many hundreds of memberships have been received from this source. Large branches have been formed in such important interior cities as Rosario, Mendoza, La Plata, Azul, Tres Arroyos and Bernal among others where civic and church leaders are giving the movement strong support. The various universities have joined in this plan to combat Nazi propaganda and Argentine traitors.

It is confidentially reported to the M/A that the Nazi leaders in Argentina are working to have some of their own agents as members of the Committee so that they may be promptly acquainted with all the moves which these patriotic Argentines are taking against them.

Source: Press;
As stated.

M. A. Devine, Jr.
M. A. Devine, Jr.,
Major, G. S.,
Military Attaché.

Original & 5 copies airmailed June 25th.

Classification

Enclosures 2657-1-133
15 Record Section File No.
Copy No. 6-1 For Record Section Only

RECEIVED G. I. W. D. AUG 23 1940
MILITARY INTELLIGENCE DIVISION
WAR DEPARTMENT GENERAL STAFF

MILITARY ATTACHÉ REPORT Argentina.

Country Reported On

Subject Government Expels Nazi Leader

I. C. No. 3020

Brief Descriptive Title

Source and Degree of Reliability:

Government Decree;
Press.

Summarization of Report

When Required

Argentina takes first step to halt Nazi activity by deporting Gestapo leader.

RESTRICTED.

In Comments on Current Events Enter Item Headings Here

With the publication of a decree under authority of the "Ley de Residencia"(law of residence) on August 10th deporting Karl Arnold, German, 29 years of age with 11 years residence in Argentina, who is named in the decree as head of the local Gestapo, the Argentine Government indicates that it is tiring of Fifth Column activities in this country, and the interference of foreign agents in the life of its people. Arnold, who disappeared about the time the decree was published and has not been located by the police, is said for several years to have led the terrorist methods used by the Nazis against their enemies.

The decree was published following the success of the Gendarmerie in the Territory of Misiones(previously reported) in unearthing Nazi organizations, agents, arms and ammunition in German houses and buried in the garden of the German consul in Apóstoles, a local physician. Also leading up to the issuance of the decree of expulsion was the discovery in Southern Argentina near the Chilean border of thirteen former Graf Spee sailors who were about to cross into Chile with the help of local German residents. They were brought back to Buenos Aires and have been interned on Martin Garcia Island in the River Plate for the duration.

The press, except that in German pay, upholds the Government in its action against Arnold, but La Prensa, the most important and independent of all, asks pertinently how the Government in an official decree can admit the existence of the Gestapo by name in Argentina and then take no steps to break up the organization other than deporting one of its agents.

M. A. Devine, Jr.
M. A. Devine, Jr.,
Major, G. S.,
Military Attaché.

Original & 5 copies airmailed Aug. 13th.

G-2 Distribution: 4, 5, 6,
Copy No. 1, R/S; 2, L/C; 3, Section File

From M. A. Argentina Report No. 6305 Date August 13, 1940.
This line to appear on all succeeding pages

CONFIDENTIAL

Classification

Enclosures

Record Section File No.

Copy No. 61

For Record Section Only

MILITARY INTELLIGENCE DIVISION WAR DEPARTMENT GENERAL STAFF

MILITARY ATTACHÉ REPORT Argentina.....
Country Reported On

Subject Nazi Activities..... I.G. No. 3020.....
Brief Descriptive Title

Source and Degree of Reliability:

Personal contacts; believed reliable.

Summarization of Report
When Required

In Comments on Current Events Enter Item Headings Here

An Italian source reports that Italian citizens discharged by British firms here are being paid ten to twelve pesos per week(\$2.50 to \$3.00 U.S. Currency) by the German Embassy. This sum is paid regardless of the fact that the person may be anti-Fascist in sentiment.

It is also reported that the German Ambassador in Buenos Aires has lost favor with the Nazi Government and is being watched by a "Baroness von Gruhl" who reports directly to Berlin on his actions and on other members of the Embassy. The same source reports that the Ambassador is to be replaced.

Other reports are to the effect that the Nazi machine in this section has been completely overhauled and is now headed by a Herr Marx who directs the Ambassador on all political, economic and financial questions. It is stated that Marx has four assistants appointed from Berlin.

It is reported that a number of French sailors who have been refuged on French steamers unable to sail from Argentine ports have enlisted in the de Gaulle movement and are being sent to England by the British. It is said that the Germans have bought up some members of this group and are paying them six English pounds per day for their services. It may be that the Germans contemplate sabotage activities on these ships while en route to England.

The Ex-Ambassador of Spain, Ossorio y Gallardo, an Ex-Minister of Justice, Manuel Blaseo Garzion, an Ex-Vice President of the Cortes, Luis Jimenez de Azéza, and an Ex-President of the Council of Ministers are endeavoring to gather volunteers for service against Spain in the event she enters the war and are said to have approximately 800 Spanish Republican volunteers. The Germans are aware of the organization and are said to have agents within its ranks. The manager of the Condor Syndicate Air Lines, Walter Grätewold, is reported to be the disbursing agent.

G-2 Distribution: 4..... 5..... 6.....
Copy No. 1, R/S; 2, L/C; 3, Section File

From M. A. Argentina..... Report No. 6419..... Date November 20, 1940.....
This line to appear on all succeeding pages

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Classification

G-2 Report.

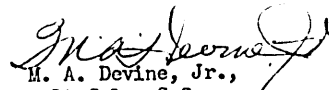
3020.

A Herr Dämmer is reported to be the chief of a section charged with opposing the spread of the de Gaulle movement in the southern part of South America. At present he is reported to be residing in Santiago, Chile, and is alleged to have twenty-two secret agents working under him.

It has been estimated that the Germans have approximately 38,000 men in Argentina who have had military service in the German army, and that approximately 100,000 are registered and organized in German societies. The former figure seems excessive unless these men were sent to Argentina during recent years, as the size of the German army had been restricted for some years.

COMMENTS.

The situation is not clear but it appears that many changes of personnel have been made recently and that Germany is covering every line which is opposing her policy, and is checking and cross-checking all of her representatives.


M. A. Devine, Jr.,
Lt.Col., G.S.,
Military Attaché.

All copies airmailed Nov. 20th.

CONFIDENTIAL

Classification

Enclosures

Record Section File No.

Copy No.

For Record Section Only

MILITARY INTELLIGENCE DIVISION

WAR DEPARTMENT GENERAL STAFF

MILITARY ATTACHÉ REPORT Argentina.....
Country Reported On

Subject Conversations between Argentina and Uruguay..... I. G. No. 3800.....
Brief Descriptive Title

Source and Degree of Reliability:

As stated.

Summarization of Report

When Required

In Comments on Current Events Enter Item Headings Here

It has been reported in the press that the Foreign Ministers of Argentina and Uruguay spent the latter days of last week at an "estancia" (ranch) near the city of Colonia, Uruguay, in consultations on questions of mutual interest to the two countries. It has been definitely announced that the following subjects were discussed:

- a. Economic questions interesting the two countries;
- b. Defense of the Rio de La Plata;
- c. Plans for a regional conference to be held January 15, 1941, at Montevideo, Uruguay;
- d. Plans for consultations with "neighboring countries".

La Prensa, one of the two leading newspapers of Buenos Aires, comments that this conference held at Colonia should do much to dispel any misunderstandings regarding air and naval bases.

COMMENTS.

As regards "b", the Military Attaché does not believe that any of the high ranking officers of the Argentine Army attended this meeting. The press failed to carry any mention of naval or military officials so it may be assumed that the talks were very general in character.

It is a possibility that "c" will include consultations between Uruguay, Paraguay, Bolivia and Argentina, although this is just a conjecture. Originally a regional conference was scheduled for last September, then it was postponed to December and now is slated for January 15th. It is believed that this meeting, if ever held, will at first treat with the solution of economic problems affecting the River Plate countries. It will be interesting to note whether Brazil participates.

Press representatives believe that this conference "d" will treat with the subjects of naval and air bases, defense problems, etc., so it is assumed that Chile and Brazil may be invited to join in the discussions.

No public announcements relating to composition, agenda or procedure have been made so it is doubtful if concrete plans have been formulated.

It does not appear that Argentina is in condition to render economic or financial assistance to her neighbors.

G-2 Distribution: 4, 5,
Copy No. 1, R/S; 2, L/C; 3, Section File

From M. A. Argentina..... Report No. 6460..... Date December 18, 1940.....
This line to appear on all succeeding pages

CONFIDENTIAL

Classification

6-1 2657-135

G-2 Report.

3,800.

ARGENTINA - Political.

Subject: Attitude Toward International Affairs;
Relations with Continental Neighbors.

(Ref. Comments on M/A Reports, Nov. 22, 1939).

The relations of the Argentine Republic with all South and Central American Republics are on a friendly basis, and under the intelligent direction of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr. Cantilo, her prestige seems to have progressed in all those countries, and increased by the attitude of the Argentine representatives at the last Pan-American Conference held in Panama.

The general feeling here is that Argentina is the leading nation of South America, and she hears herself referred to as such in most of the other countries. Her opinion is also held in great regard in all matters pertaining to South American politics.

The general trend of foreign affairs in this country is one of friendliness towards all neighboring states, and the completion of independent pacts and agreements with most of them which give the country commercial advantages.

Recently, the visit of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Brazil, Dr. Aranha, has served to further the good relations between these two countries, and several important commercial agreements were signed which are expected to give reciprocal advantages in the furthering of their commercial relations. The nature of these pacts has not been made public, except in a general way, the real purport of them having been kept secret, but it is understood that one of the important points settled was the completion of the international bridge over the Uruguay River which will connect Paso de los Libres on the Argentine side with Uruguayana on the Brazilian shore and which will allow a very large traffic between the two countries.

The recent opening of the Transandean Tunnel to Chile, heretofore used exclusively for the weekly transcontinental train, for motor traffic is expected to stimulate tourist traffic between the two countries and increase the exchange of merchandise. Efforts have also been made by the Chilean Government to facilitate the shipment of produce of the Andine provinces of Mendoza, San Juan and Catamarca by Chilean ports of the Pacific instead of by Atlantic ports, which, especially to the United States, would mean a saving of time and money in so far as the western states are concerned. Arrangements are going ahead steadily for the rapid completion of repairs to the Transandine railway, and it is expected that traffic may be resumed some time in 1941.

The general feeling toward the present Chilean Government seems to have undergone a favorable reaction, there being apparently more confidence in the present Government and less fear of its reactionary nature.

Argentina and Paraguay have arrived at a definite conclusion in the matter of their boundary line, and have apparently come to an agreement on the course of the Pilcomayo River, the treaty signed in Buenos Aires having already been ratified by the Paraguayan Congress, this being the

From M/A Argentina.

Report No. 6188.

February 20, 1940.

3-5 3302

- 2 -

G-2 Report.

3,800.

only important question pending between the two countries. Several commercial treaties have been signed and ratified by both Governments which place the relations of both countries on a very friendly basis.

Relations between Argentina and Uruguay are developing on a normal and friendly basis. The matter of jurisdiction over certain islands in the Uruguay and Plate rivers is being studied by a commission formed by representatives of both countries.

Source: Personal contacts.

Lester Baker

Lester Baker,
Colonel, Infantry,
Military Attaché.

Original & 5 copies airmailed Feb. 21st.

EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
OFFICE OF THE MILITARY ATTACHE
BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA.

RECEIVED
MIL. INTEL. DIV.
2657-1-127
2
WAR DEPARTMENT

SECRET

December 20, 1940.

6463.

RECEIVED R/W D/ DEC 31 1940

Subject: Conversation with Asst. C. of S., G-2, Argentine Army.

To: A. C. of S., G-2, War Department, Washington, D.C.

1. On two occasions during the past week Major Emilio Loza of the Intelligence Division of the Argentine Army General Staff has informed me in substance as follows:

Argentina considers that Uruguay, Paraguay and at least the southern portion of Bolivia are military dependencies of the Argentine Republic. These countries are joined geographically to Argentina, are a part of the River Plate basin and would be provinces of Argentina had it not been for the interference of England and the jealousy of Brazil.

Major Loza stated that this, among other reasons, was why Argentina had objected to the United States holding military conversations with the above-mentioned countries.

2. This statement seems to give weight to my impression covered in Secret Letter No. 6381, October 22, 1940: "I had a distinct feeling that Loza desired to tell me that the military conversations should have been restricted to the United States, Brazil and Argentina but that he could not bring himself to state this. (It is possible that this was one of the insults he referred to)".

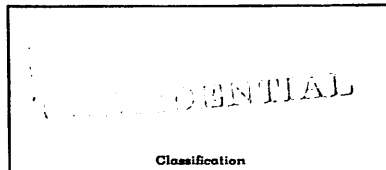
3. I am inclined to believe that the above is the official sentiment of the Argentine Government in view of the recent and projected conferences.

M. A. Devine, Jr.
M. A. Devine, Jr.,
Lt. Col., G.S.C.,
Military Attaché.

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SECRET

126



Enclosures
Record Section File No.
Copy No. 6
For Record Section Only

MILITARY INTELLIGENCE DIVISION

WAR DEPARTMENT GENERAL STAFF

MILITARY ATTACHE REPORT Argentina
Country Reported On

Subject Foreign Relations; Army Officers' Views I. G. No. 3850
Brief Descriptive Title

Source and Degree of Reliability: As stated.

Summarization of Report When Required Leading Army Officers explain Argentine attitude.
In Comments on Current Events Enter Item Headings Here

General Guillermo J. Mohr, the retiring Inspector General of the Argentine Army, told me this morning that Argentina had to be careful in her international relations because of the large number of Italians, Germans, French and English who were here in the country. He stated that Argentina's sentiments were wholly with the democracies but they had to move with extreme caution.

He also said that he had spoken with extreme sincerity and conviction in describing his visit to the United States and could state truthfully that the visit had been the greatest event in his life, and that he had described it as such to his comrades in the army. He hoped that it would be possible for other officers of his army to visit the United States and for officers of our army to visit Argentina, although he was well aware that we have surpassed his country in practically every line.

General Arturo Rawson, General of Cavalry and Chief of the Remount Service, told the Military Attaché that the Monroe Doctrine was a fine instrument for this hemisphere in the present troubled world, but that he thought in times of peace that such a strong policy was not required but that the Americas should be open to all the world.

He urged strongly that we permit the importation of beef because by this gesture we would clear the atmosphere of any suspicion and then the United States would be considered as good a friend as England.

General Rawson has previously been considered anti both United States and England and pro-Nazi.

Colonel Trotz, Commander of the Presidential Body-guard, was deeply affected by President Roosevelt's last broadcast and said that although he was of German descent he had no sympathy for Germany or the German people.

G-2 Distribution: 4, 5, 6
Copy No. 1, R/S; 2, L/C; 3, Section File

From M. A. Argentina Report No. 6475 Date January 3, 1941
This line to appear on all succeeding pages

CONFIDENTIAL

G-2 Report.

3850

He said that Argentina was defenseless against a modern army and that Buenos Aires could be practically destroyed by two planes; one dropping bombs on the power plant and one on the water plant (previously reported by M.A.). Colonel Trotz said the only country they could appeal to for help in the event of attack would be the United States.

Colonel Lagos - G-2 of the War Ministry - in a conversation today urged that the United States permit the importation of Argentine beef and grain products as the best manner of cementing the excellent relations which at present exist between Argentina and the United States.

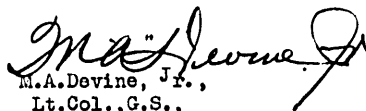
COMMENTS.

I believe that the Argentine people and army are badly frightened with the turn of events in Europe and know that the only friends to whom they can turn for help are the American people.

Argentines have enjoyed the "bad boy" reputation among the American republics for a long time and I believe that they will gladly change, and change quickly, if given an opportunity to do so if given some slight economic concessions which the Government can use for political ammunition to blast the anti-American pro-Nazi elements.

I have found telling them foreign influences and anti-American propaganda in Argentina have been the underlying causes of many of the difficulties between our countries in the past but now that these are being shaken off we find ourselves the closest friends, invariably gains a most favorable reaction and thorough agreement. Argentines seem to like the idea that unpleasant events of the past might have been due to the fact that the Argentines did not know the Americans and the Americans did not know the Argentines. General Mohr deserves much credit for this change of attitude.

I sincerely believe that with tactful handling, straight talking when necessary and well-timed, even if small concessions, we can have Argentina with us, at least for the duration of the war. Underlying this conviction is the belief that the Argentines have a genuine fear of losing their independence to the Nazis or Fascists.


M.A. Devine, Jr.,
Lt. Col., G.S.,
Military Attaché.

All copies airmailed Jan. 3rd.

G-2 Report.

3850

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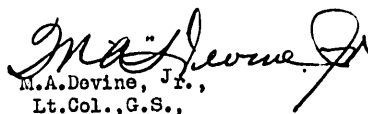
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M.A. Devine, Jr.,
Lt. Col., G.S.,
Military Attaché.

All copies airmailed Jan. 3rd.

EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
OFFICE OF THE MILITARY ATTACHE
BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA.

2657-8-137
1
WAR DEPARTMENT
m

SECRET

October 22, 1940.

6381.

Subject: Argentine-American Conversations.

To: A. C. of S., G-2, War Department, Washington, D.C.

1. Following is a brief resumé of events leading up to and including recent conversations between Argentine and American Military and Naval officials held in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

August 17th.

Upon receipt of your radiogram stating that Colonel Christian would arrive on August 17th and conferences had been arranged by the Embassy, I asked Mr. Tuck, Chargé d'Affaires, concerning the arrangements that had been made, and found that there had been no conversations with the Foreign Office and that the Embassy was at a loss to understand what subject was to be discussed.

The Embassy then deduced that Colonel Christian's mission concerned some conversations which Lt. Col. Cannon, Air Corps, had with the Ambassador relating to air corps mechanics, an air base at Córdoba, etc., which had been made the subject of a dispatch to the State Department. It may be of interest to the Chief of M.I.D. to know that this was the first knowledge the Military Attaché had of this conversation.

September 18-25.

Colonel Christian was delayed some weeks in Buenos Aires pending the arrival and departure of the South Atlantic Squadron; proceeded to Paraguay, conducted staff conversations, and returned to Buenos Aires September 18th.

On September 25th the Argentine Minister of Foreign Affairs notified Mr. Tuck that Argentina was ready to proceed. At the request of Mr. Tuck and Colonel Christian I arranged for a call of courtesy upon the Minister of War, General Tonazzi, who received us in a gracious manner, and at the same time Colonel Christian presented a copy of the agenda to the Minister who promised to give it his early attention.

October 3-4.

On October 3rd, as nothing had been heard from the Minister of War, Colonel Christian and Mr. Tuck requested that I see what could be done to expedite conversations, so, accordingly, the same day I made arrangements to interview the Minister of War on October 4th. That evening Colonel Suarez, his adjutant-secretary,

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called at my quarters stating that Colonel Kelso, Chief of the President's Household and Chief of the Gendarmerie, had been designated to represent the Minister of War, and that he (Kelso) would receive us at 10 a.m. October 4th. Accordingly we called but failed to find Colonel Kelso. Shortly thereafter I phoned Colonel Suarez and a definite time was set for a meeting, 2:30 that afternoon.

The subjects discussed at the conference will be reported in full by Colonel Christian, however, I was aware that, while very cordial, the delegates were proceeding with extreme caution - probably acting upon definite orders from higher authority.

October 11.

From October 4th to 11th no word was received from the Argentine delegates, so, accordingly, upon the request of Colonel Christian and Mr. Tuck, I arranged for a meeting with Colonel Kelso. Colonel Kelso was most cordial and informed me, in substance, that he was ready to resume conversations, and that, in his opinion, the conference could be concluded in one session and that he believed next Wednesday, October 17th, would be satisfactory, but that we would be notified later. It was my very definite impression that Colonel Kelso had concluded the Army replies to the questionnaire but that higher authority was sparing for more time. (More detailed notes of my conversation on other subjects are contained in Colonel Christian's special report).

October 11-12.

That same evening I was present at a dinner which included the Acting G-2 of the War Department, Major Emilio Loza. He chided me several times upon the fact that I had not explained to him the subject which I had desired to discuss with the Minister of War, however, he was G-2 of the Army and knew everything we were considering.

By 5:30 the following morning he was disposed to talk and stated in substance as follows:

The United States had insulted Argentina by:

Including her with such countries as Salvador, Guatemala, Nicaragua;

Talking about sending 25,000 American troops to protect the Argentines;

(This statement was supposed to have been made by a United States Senator on or about September 25th and reported by the press to Argentina). That press dispatches from the United States were accurately reported in Buenos Aires, because every paper, with the exception of El Pampero, was pro-American;

Argentina did not need one American soldier to defend her and that she would fight to the last man if attacked by hostile forces from within or without. The Military Attaché and the United States did not know the Argentine Army which had a strength of 40,000 men and 200,000 reserves;

The Army was pro-German because it had been trained by Germans but that this did not mean that they (the army) would permit the Germans to take over. From his viewpoint his heart indicated one policy toward Germany while his reasoning indicated another,

Italians had been assimilated in the Argentine but the Germans and English were races apart. The latter two had established their own communities, spoke their respective languages, and did not mingle with the Argentine people. It was true that the Argentines did not know the United States and that much of their information concerning our country had been gained from English, German, Italian and French contacts and that these elements disseminated anti-American propaganda

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among the Argentines. Nevertheless, England and not the United States was Argentina's best friend;

General Marquez, the former Minister of War, hated the Germans, therefore it was impossible for Germany to know of the Argentine war plans;

Mr. Wilkie had insulted the Argentines by his remarks on the beef situation. The Argentines knew that Americans were dying?(or suffering) from mal-nutrition because they did not have sufficient beef. On the other hand, Mr. Roosevelt was the best friend the Argentines had in American political circles;

Argentina was not like the other South American countries because she did not extend her hand to the United States asking for money. She wanted a fair chance at trade which the United States was denying her;

The Argentines had much artillery and machine guns and were not asking the United States for any of these.(For some unknown reason the Argentine delegates believed Colonel Christian was urging that they adopt American calibers);

Argentina wanted to manufacture its own munitions in the country and did not wish to buy them in the United States.(This confirms reported attitude of the Minister of War);

The Argentine Army was not organized to defend itself against modern armies but for action against(or with?) neighboring countries;

The United States had plenty of money but that she could not buy an army in less than two years because trained reserves and materiel were lacking.

He, Loza, knew all about Colonel Christian and his conversations. It would be necessary for the United States to furnish Argentina with Hitler's plans for an invasion. Did Colonel Christian have these plans?

The invitation extended General Mohr to visit the United States and inspect our forces had been a happy gesture and that the Argentines would like to send officers to our schools. If invitations were extended they would be accepted by the Argentine Army.

I had a distinct feeling that Loza desired to tell me that the military conversations should have been restricted to the United States, Brazil and Argentina, but that he could not bring himself to state this.(It is possible that this was one of the insults he referred to).

I am unable to state whether the conversation represented Loza's personal feelings or those of the Ministry of War, but do know that the substance of many answers were of a similar vein to the sentiments expressed by Major Loza. For this reason his conversation is reported somewhat in detail.

October 17.

Upon the conclusion of the conferences, Colonel Kelso told me in substance the following: That in his opinion we had the cart before the horse. That it would have been better had these conversations been based upon an exchange of notes between the United States and the Argentine governments. After an agreement between the governments, our respective War Ministries should then be consulted and delegates named to conduct the conferences. That the whole matter should start from the top and work down, but that these conversations had started from the opposite direction and that the officers had really no power and depended upon higher authority for their actions. It would be preferable if the delegates from the United States were empowered to make decisions.

He believed that conversations should be held and plans made before

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the event, as the present war had shown there is little time for planning and conversations when armies start to march. His country had plans concerning neighboring States but had done no work on war plans other than the above.

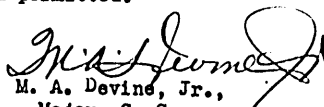
COMMENTS.

In my opinion, Colonel Christian was an admirable selection to conduct conversations with the Argentine military officials as they are suspicious, difficult and arrogant as a race, and require extreme caution, patience, tolerance and understanding to handle or even get along with, and these latter qualities Colonel Christian possesses to an exceptional degree.

The relations existing between Colonel Christian and the undersigned were close and cordial throughout his stay in Argentina, and I feel that no one could have handled these negotiations in a more able manner.

I believe that the Ministers of War and Navy made an earnest effort to cooperate with Colonel Christian to the extent of selecting as their senior delegates Colonel Kelso and Captain McLean; both fine characters, considerate and polite; men of prestige in their respective Services.

Colonel Kelso told me that he had personally prepared the answers to the questionnaire, and distinctly intimated that he would have been willing to go much further if higher authority had permitted.


M. A. Devine, Jr.,
Major, G. S.,
Military Attaché.

(Copy furnished 11/4/40)
W.P.D. @

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RECEIVED
JAN 11 1941
MIL. INTEL. DIV.
2657-L-138
WAR DEPARTMENT
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In reply
refer to:
Serial No. 346

ROOM 810
1250 SIXTH AVENUE
NEW YORK, N. Y.

RBC/mvh

January 9, 1941

Subject: Argentine political outlook. (I.G. No. 3020)

To: The A.C. of S., G-2
War Department
Washington, D.C.

There is an underground current of opinion in Argentine against the Nazis and a minority group not only for the Fascist but also for the Nazis. It is not believed that Argentine will surrender any right for hemisphere defense which might deprive it of its liberty of action. The entire situation is reduced to a matter of economics.

Argentine is and has always been dependent upon Europe for its market. No amount of money loaned to Argentine will permanently improve relations with the United States, because the minute Argentine may again deal with Europe it will do so. Therefore the United States must never expect full cooperation.

It is possible that there will be a real political disturbance before long, depending upon the health of President Ortiz, who having lost one eye may lose the other. However there are rumors to the effect that the reports of his illness are greatly exaggerated and that he intends to come back in January or February. If he fails on account of his health, then Castillo, the vice-president who is an old man might not be able to carry on because of the urgent necessity for a prostate operation. If both Ortiz and Castillo fail then Pinedo, the Finance Secretary is the only successor.

The majority of the Argentine people are against granting or leasing any bases, but the loan has at least temporarily postponed the anti-American feeling which existed and still exists underneath the surface. There is in other words no friendly feeling towards the United States but there is a friendly feeling for the British. The British are backed by their Government whereas the American investor and business man is not backed by his Government. This loan of fifty million dollars apparently will be made without any negotiations for the safeguarding of American interests in Argentina, which are slowly being strangled - primarily by strong British competition, a pro-Nazi and Fascist feeling and the lack of support of the United States Government for American interests in Argentina.

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While the Argentine is not pro-Nazi nor pro-Fascist and is primarily looking for the welfare of the Argentine Republic, its feelings are more pro-British than pro-American and basically is becoming less pro-American than ever, despite the temporary alleviation by reason of the loan. The opinion of the source is that you cannot buy goodwill.

Prepared by 1st Lieutenant Roscoe B. Gaither

Source: M.J.A. Bertin - member of the Foreign Trade
Committee of the Socony-Vacuum Export De-
partment, New York, N.Y.

Fredrick D. Sharp
FREDERICK D. SHARP,
Major, G.S.C.

CONFIDENTIAL

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.
January 28, 1941

JAN 29 1941
INTEL. DIV.
WAR DEPARTMENT

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL
BY SPECIAL MESSENGER

Honorable Adolf A. Berle, Jr.
Assistant Secretary of State
Department of State
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Berle:

As of possible interest to you, I am transmitting herewith a memorandum containing information in regard to the present political situation at Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Sincerely yours,

Enclosure

J. E. Hoover

cc - Captain Jules James
Acting Director
Naval Intelligence
Navy Department
Washington, D. C.

✓ cc - Brigadier General Sherman Miles
Assistant Chief of Staff
G-2, War Department
Washington, D. C.

REC'D Executive Committee 30 Jan 30 1941

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1-28-41
JAN 31 1941
OFFICE OF THE
MIL. INTEL. DIV.
WAR DEPARTMENT

January 28, 1941

MEMORANDUM

RE: POLITICAL SITUATION -
ARGENTINA

Information has been received from a reliable, confidential source to the effect that in the absence of President Ortiz, Dr. Castillo, the Vice President, is the acting President of Argentina, and it is reported that Dr. Castillo's leadership is not very effective and the government is in effect being operated by individuals behind the scenes who hold no governmental positions at present.

It has been reported that General Agustin P. Justo, former President of Argentina, is attempting to take over the government and is in fact the dominant factor behind Dr. Castillo and some other members of the government.

It is further reported that recently Rodriguez Araya, a Radical member of the Chamber of Deputies, in a speech in the Chamber of Deputies stated that General Justo was "conspiring in the shadows" to direct the government. Araya stated that it appeared that there were two governments, one headed by Dr. Ortiz, whose solidarity with Dr. Castillo, the Vice President, was not very firm, and that of General Justo.

Information has also been received that the Radicals in Argentina intend to have Ortiz returned to the presidency long enough to appoint a new cabinet and reorganize a new government if his health will permit. It is reported, however, that it does not appear probable that Ortiz will return to the presidency because of the fact that he is almost totally blind.

It is further reported that General Justo has been protecting the alleged fraudulent voting which took place in

REC'D Executive Office

JAN 30 1941

Santa Fe and Mendoza provinces, Argentina, by preventing the present government from taking any action.

It is also reported that additional resignations in the cabinet are imminent and among those mentioned are Dr. Roca, Minister of Foreign Relations; Dr. Amadeo y Videla, Minister of Agriculture; and Dr. Culciati, Minister of the Interior.

* * * * *

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In reply
refer to:
Serial No. 550.

ROOM 811
1270 SIXTH AVENUE
NEW YORK, N. Y.

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2657-2-138
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TELEPHONE: CIRCLE 6-1484-85

FDS/wc

February 24, 1941.

Subject: Political Situation - Argentina. (I.G. No. 3020).

To: The A. C. of S., G-2
War Department
Washington, D. C.

The following report was made to Mr. Arthur H. Sulzberger, New York Times, by John W. White, New York Times correspondent in Buenos Aires and Montevideo.

This report was dated January 13, 1941.

"The present crisis is the very natural and logical outcome of Uriburu's revolution of September 6, 1930, which moved Argentina's clock back an entire generation (to the early nineties) by wiping out the democratic regime which had been established for the first time in 1916, thus restoring the fraud and violence by which the old landed Conservatives had retained power since 1862 in spite of the constant growth and organization of the rising, vote-conscious masses. All the elections since 1930 have been fraudulent. General Justo was elected by fraud to succeed Uriburu and then, in turn, organized the fraudulent elections which put Ortiz into the presidency. Justo, who had made a huge fortune during his presidency, expected Ortiz to prepare the way for Justo's election at the end of Ortiz's term. Under Argentine law, a President cannot be re-elected until someone else has served a term. Ortiz, who is an honest man, accepted the presidency under fraud but declared himself to be the bridge between fraud in the past and honest, democratic government in the future. He declared his intention of organizing honest elections in all the provinces and intervened in two provinces where the elections were fraudulent. Under the Argentine Constitution, the national government is authorized to intervene in provinces by throwing out the elected authorities and substituting agents of the federal government to restore order or organize honest elections. This action by Ortiz brought him into open conflict with Justo and the Conservatives, who forced Ortiz to turn the national government over to Vice President Castillo, on the plea of illness which made it impossible to carry out the presidential duties. The original plan was that Castillo, who is a Fascist, would legally and constitutionally take over the presidency, appoint a Fascist cabinet with the notorious Senator Sanchez Sorondo as minister of interior, and the Fascist element would be in power without having had to resort to a coup d'etat.

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"When Ortiz saw this situation being framed up against him, he sent for former President Marcelo T. de Alvear, national chairman of Irigoyen's old Union Civica Radical (popularly known as the Radical Party) and asked Alvear to support him in a coup d'etat by which he planned to eliminate the Fascist elements and restore the Radical Party to power in a regrettable but necessary stroke for democracy. Alvear, who always has been a staunch democrat and constitutionalist, said he preferred to have a bad government set up by elections, even though fraudulent, than to throw the country into another revolution. Ortiz was forced, therefore, to accept the situation, but he made a grandstand play by sending his definite resignation to Congress, accepting responsibility for a sensational land graft in connection with the purchase of land for the military academy. Ortiz had never been suspected of any connection with this scandal and his resignation appealed to the Latin sentimentality of the Argentines. The entire country rose up and demanded that Congress reject the resignation which, undoubtedly, is what Ortiz expected would happen. This organization of public opinion disrupted the Fascist scheme and Castillo did not dare set up a Fascist regime. Twice since he has been acting President, the Fascist clique in the army have tried to start a coup. On both occasions they have found so much opposition in the army that they have not dared to go ahead.

"The elections in the province of Santa Fe (December 16) and Mendoza (January 5) have been described in the newspapers as the most vile and criminal ones in all Argentine history. In both provinces the government party resorted to every possible form of fraud, including armed violence and murder, to hold on to power in the face of the known majority of the opposition. Castillo and his minister of interior have refused to take any action in the matter and apparently intend to let the fraudulently elected authorities take office. The Radical Party, which has a strong majority in the Chamber of Deputies, has refused to take action on any legislation until the government finds a legal solution for the situation which has been created in the two provinces. The Radical Party wants the national government to intervene and organize new and honest elections in the two provinces. There is no indication at this writing that the national government intends to accede to this demand. Consequently, the Radical Party is now determined that nothing short of a revolution will restore democracy to Argentina and they are now organizing this revolt. Certain men have taken an oath before the party to assassinate Justo if he attempts to start a coup d'etat to block the revolution. The leader of the military action probably will be General

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Ramon Molina (not to be confused with General Juan Bautista Molina, who is the leader of the Fascist clique in the army). The immediate objective of the revolt will be to put Alvear in as provisional president. Alvear is opposed to this but apparently has been persuaded that as head of the party he must accept the decision of the majority. Alvear and some of his closest associates were inclined to enter into a pact with the national government designed to set up a working arrangement between the government and the Radical party. This group has been nicknamed the Munich appeasers of the Radical party and they have been out-voted by the large majority of the party who, under the leadership of Honorio Pueyrredon, former ambassador at Washington, feels that revolution is preferable to permitting the country to fall into the hands of the Fascists and Nazis.

"The Conservatives, having overthrown democracy, and true to the Argentine tendency to never call anything by its right name, renamed their party the National Democrats. These so-called national democrats, although still maintaining the majority in the Senate, have seen the Radical Party steadily turn them out of the control they stole in the Chamber of Deputies after the Uriburu regime. They know very well that if the Radical Party gets into power again they probably can never get onto the top, even by revolution. Therefore, no one expects them to accept defeat without putting up a fight. The Buenos Aires newspapers are openly speaking, daily, of the imminent threat of civil war.

"All shades of public opinion admit that the present situation cannot possibly continue. Justo, the rightest in politics, and the fascists in the army, will not permit Ortiz to resume the presidency. Castillo, instead of carrying out the Ortiz policies, is setting up his own policies which Ortiz freely criticizes in press interviews. Thus, the country really has two presidents. The great mass of public opinion throughout the country favors Ortiz against Castillo and undoubtedly will support a Radical Party revolution which has for its objective the elimination of Castillo and re-establishment of a democratic, constitutional form of government.

"Meanwhile, emergency legislation is urgently needed to solve the economic and financial crisis that has been produced in Argentina by the war in Europe. Finance Minister Pinedo, who has sent to Congress several bills designed to solve this crisis, took upon himself last week the mission of trying to persuade the Radical Party to accept a political truce; that is, to drop its political opposition to the government and pass the emergency legislation, on the government's very vague promise to do something about the political situation sometime in the future.

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At a meeting of Radical Party leaders at Alvear's residence yesterday, it was decided to reject Pinedo's proposal and not to enter into any arrangement for conciliation or political peace until such time as the government wipes out the Mendoza and Santa Fe frauds and guarantees free and honest elections in the future. The leading newspapers, including La Prensa, say this is the only kind of truce that the country can accept. If a solution cannot be found for this deadlock, it seems only a matter of days until one side or the other will resort to force. There is always the possibility that the Fascists will try to start the coup that they have had planned for some time, since they know that one of the first acts of a Radical Party revolution will be to crush all Fascist, Nazi and Fifth Column activities in the country and to cooperate with the United States in continental defense. For this reason, British interests in Argentina are said to be supporting Alvear, as against a Fascist coup, although the British are satisfied with Castillo as long as he does not actually let the Fascists get into power.

"There are now three national parties in Argentina; National Democrats (Conservatives) Union Civica Radical (Radical Party) and Antipersonalista Radicals. This last party was organized by Alvear to oppose the wing led by Irigoyen. Alvear now is the leader of the main party and the two wings of the Radical party are voting together against the Conservatives, so in the following figures of party representation in Congress can be considered one party (Radical). The Socialist Party is very strong in the city of Buenos Aires and is a strong democratic force in Congress but does not exist outside the federal capital.

"The Argentine Senate consists of 30 members--two from each of the 14 provinces and two from the federal capital. At present there are four vacancies, so there are only 26 senators. They are distributed as follows: National Democrats 13, Radicals 3, Antipersonalistas 5, Socialists 1, Independents 4. Two of the so-called Independents are Fascists, one of them being Sanchez Sorondo.

"The Chamber of Deputies consists of 158 members, as follows: Federal Capital 32, Province of Buenos Aires 42, Cordoba 15, Santa Fe 19, Entre Rios 9, Corrientes 7, Tucuman 7, Santiago del Estero 6, Mendoza 6, Salta 3, San Luis 3, Catamarca 2, La Rioja 2, Jujuy 2, San Juan 3. There are four vacancies, so there are 154 members in the present Chamber, who are distributed politically as follows: Radicals 73, National Democrats 47, Antipersonalistas 23, Socialists 5, local provincial parties 6."

Frederick D. Sharp
FREDERICK D. SHARP,
Major, G.S.C.

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WRT

1911 FEB - 23 - PM 3:04
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FEB 24 1911
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Enclosures

Record Section File No.

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For Record Section Only

MILITARY INTELLIGENCE DIVISION
WAR DEPARTMENT GENERAL STAFF

MILITARY ATTACHE REPORT

Subject **Brief Descriptive Title**

Source and Degree of Reliability:

0-11-176

Summarization of Report

When Required

Changes in relative...
relative ...

1a Comments on Current Events Enter Item Headings Here

The members of the Cabinet, all of whom are Foreign Affairs men, still include the following: Carlos Illa, the Foreign Minister; Luis Salgado, respectively, Dr. Ricardo was Under-Secretary of Finance in 1932, became subsequently a Director of the Banco de la Nación and filled the post of Minister of Finance during the last few months of General Jurado's Presidency. Although of conservative tendency he is not actively identified with any political party and his appointment was well received by the Radical opposition. Dr. Luis Salgado is a career diplomat at present Ambassador to the Vatican, an intellectual with democratic ideas and like Dr. Ricardo has no definite political associations. Both appointments have been taken to be conciliatory gestures made by the Interior Executive to pour oil on the troubled political waters. Fortunately there are indications that the warring factions in Congress are about to set aside political issues to a certain extent and settle down to constructive legislation.

There has been no activity in either house of the Argentine Congress during the last week on account of the Easter holidays. It is expected that Congress will get down to business this coming week as the two parties, the radicals and the Democristas Nacionales, have apparently arrived at some sort of a deal whereby the radical majority in the Lower House will cooperate with some of the legislation needed for the good of the country, especially the budget and the approval of the loan recently negotiated with the United States.

10 The Presidential situation is unchanged; it appears more and
11 more likely that Mr. Ortiz' state of health will permit him to resume his
12 executive duties, and we may therefore look forward to the continuation
13 of the President Castillo's term of office.

G-2 Distribution: 4, 5, 6,
Copy No. 1, R/S; 2, L/C; 3, Section File.

From M. A. New York Office Report No. 2041 Date April 22, 1941
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OCS Form 17

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 10-14547

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[illegible]

Frederick Sharp
THOMAS W. B. SHARP,
Lieut. Col., U.S.A.

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Classification

Enclosures 5657-1-158
Record Section File No.
Copy No. 6-1 For Record Section Only

MILITARY INTELLIGENCE DIVISION

WAR DEPARTMENT GENERAL STAFF

MILITARY ATTACHE REPORT Argentina
New York Office, M.I.D.

Subject Political

I.G. No. 3115

Source and Degree of Reliability:

International Telephone and Telegraph Corporation
Reliable

Summarization of Report

When Required

Cabinet Changes and Description of Personalities Involved

In Comments on Current Events Enter Item Headings Here

Dr. Enrique Ruiz Guinazu was appointed Minister of Foreign Affairs, and Dr. Carlos Alberto Acevedo, Minister of Finance, to fill the vacancies left by Dr. Julio Argentina Roca and Dr. Feredico Pinodo respectively.

Dr. Acevedo took the oath of office on Monday, March 17th. The date on which Dr. Enrique Ruiz Guinazu will take the oath has not yet been fixed, as he is still in the Vatican City as Argentina Ambassador. Both the new Ministers are of conservative tendency.

Dr. Ruiz Guinazu is a prominent diplomat with a brilliant career behind him. He was professor of political economy at the Law Faculty of the University of Buenos Aires, and a professor at the Law Faculty of the University of La Plata.

He also held official posts, including those of head of the Registro Civil, Minister of Finance of the Municipality of Buenos Aires and lawyer of the Bank of the Nation. As a diplomat, he held the office of Minister to Switzerland, Permanent Delegate to the League of Nations, President of the League of Nations Supreme Council, and representative at the International Labour Conference.

His books include "La Magistratura Indiana", "La Tradicion de America" and "Lord Strangford y la Revolucion de Mayo" in addition to books on financial and juridical subjects.

Dr. Carlos Alberto Acevedo was professor of the Law Faculty of the University of Buenos Aires. His official posts included membership in the City Council, Under-Secretary of the Ministry of Finance, member of the Board of Directors of the Bank of the Nation and Director of the Central Bank.

G-2 Distribution: 4, 5, 6,
Copy No. 1, R/S; 2, L/C; 3, Section File

From ~~M.A.N.Y.~~ Office, M.I.D. Report No. #957 Date April 29, 1941
This line to appear on all succeeding pages

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GFT/by

From: N.Y. Office, M.I.D. Report No. 957 Date: April 29, 1941

He was Minister of Finance from 1937 to 1938, after Dr. Ortiz left General Justo's Cabinet, and afterwards president of the City Transport Corporation. He is the author of "Instituciones Politicas de los paises Anglo-Sajones" and "Hipotecas a Oro" in collaboration with Dr. Miguel Angel Carcano.

Dr. Marcelo T. de Alvear, head of the Radical Party, approved of the appointments of Dr. Carlos Alberto Acevedo as Minister of Finance and Dr. Enrique Ruiz Guinazu as Minister of Foreign Affairs.

According to the Mar del Plata correspondent of a local evening paper Dr. Alvear first learned the news from the paper's notice boards on the promenade, and commented in a loud voice: "These are two good appointments. Both Dr. Acevedo and Dr. Ruiz Guinazu are prominent persons fully qualified to hold such important posts. The fact that they are equally removed from the struggling political parties is a guarantee that we will reach national concord along this path".

Fredrick D. Sharp
FREDERICK D. SHARP,
Lieut. Col., G.S.C.